R E P O R T R E S U M E S

ED 018 387 08 SE 004 445

UNIT, ALASKA.

LOUISIANA ARTS AND SCIENCE CENTER, BATON ROUGE
REPORT NUMBER DPSC-66-1332-1 PUB DATE 67
EDRS PRICE MF-$0.25 HC-$1.44 34P.

DESCRIPTORS- *GEOGRAPHY, *GEOGRAPHIC CONCEPTS, *INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS, *SOCIAL STUDIES, *SOCIAL STUDIES UNITS, AUDIOVISUAL AIDS, BIBLIOGRAPHIES, HISTORY, NATURAL RESOURCES, PHYSICAL DIVISIONS (GEOGRAPHIC), POLITICAL DIVISIONS (GEOGRAPHIC), ALASKA, LOUISIANA ARTS AND SCIENCE CENTER, BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA,

THE UNIT DESCRIBED IN THIS BOOKLET DEALS WITH THE GEOGRAPHY OF ALASKA. THE UNIT IS PRESENTED IN OUTLINE FORM. THE FIRST SECTION DEALS PRINCIPALLY WITH THE PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY OF ALASKA. DISCUSSED ARE (1) THE SIZE, (2) THE MAJOR LAND REGIONS, (3) THE MOUNTAINS, VOLCANOES, GLACIERS, AND RIVERS, (4) THE NATURAL RESOURCES, AND (5) THE CLIMATE. THE SECOND SECTION DEALS WITH THE PEOPLE AND THE INSTITUTIONS OF ALASKA. DESCRIBED ARE (1) THE FOUR NATIVE INDIAN GROUPS, (2) THE PRODUCTS AND RESOURCES, (3) THE VARIOUS MODES OF TRANSPORTATION, (4) THE MEANS OF COMMUNICATION, (5) THE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM, AND (6) THE GOVERNMENT. INCLUDED IN THE UNIT ARE (1) A VOCABULARY LIST, (2) A LIST OF SUPPLEMENTARY STUDENT ACTIVITIES, (3) A BIBLIOGRAPHY, AND (4) A LIST OF FILMS AND FILMSTRIPS. (PD)

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UNIT: ALASKA

LOUISIANA ARTS AND SCIENCE CENTER

1967

ALASKA

Introduction of the Unit by the Liaison Teacher

What do you think of when the word "Alaska" is mentioned? Naturally, most of us do think of Eskimos, sled dogs, ice, snow, and totem poles.

The art of the Eskimo is full of surprises. With a minimum of materials, Eskimos have created combinations of fantasy, realism, strength, and humor. These are hardy, cheerful people in spite of the hard life they lead. Their winters are long and dark; for several months the sun never shines. Every Eskimo man is a hunter; animals provide his every need, food, clothing, and shelter. Almost all Eskimo art shows the hunter or the animals he hunts.

Ivory carving is one of their oldest arts. Most of their ivory comes from tusks of the walrus. First, the carver holds the ivory in his hand and turns it this way and that. He talks to it. He hums a song. The Eskimo believes that there is a shape already in the ivory, and he wants to find out what it is, so he begins to cut away the parts that hide the shape waiting inside the tusk. An Eskimo carver found the shape of this bird inside one piece. Art of the Eskimo, page 12. Old ivory found under the frozen ground is called fossil ivory. Some of it comes from tusks of mammoths that lived thousands of years ago. The baby walrus, ibid., p. 15, is more than a thousand years old and is discolored from being buried for such a long time.

Today Eskimo artists create carvings from soapstone. Their ideas are the same; they still believe the shape is already in the stone and the carver will set it free. This is a soapstone carving. [Caution them about holding it carefully.] Feel its smooth texture and notice its simple lines. Can't you see an Eskimo, sitting in his hut carving this figure and telling his children stories? They keep their carvings wrapped in animal skins to keep them safely until they are passed around when guests come to call or when the family is gathered for a story.

The Louisiana Arts and Science Center has a totem pole, and though it is spectacular in size, it is not an especially good example of the primitive totem pole. It is perhaps too sophisticated. The totem pole was carved early in the 1900's and stands twenty-seven feet tall. It is of a single piece of red cedar.

The totem pole illustrates stories of the past and is "read" from the top to the bottom. Totem poles were carved with strange and beautiful figures representing creatures. Each creature illustrates part of a story. Totem pole carvings are akin to illustrations in a book. They suggest the story, but do not supply the details. Some were ridicule poles, carved with a figure upside down, indicating that that person failed to meet an obligation. The more Indian legends one knew, the easier it was to "read" a pole. Their bright colors were obtained from crushed rock of various colors, minerals, charcoal, clam shells, and berry juice mixed with fish eggs as a binder.

A family totem has a "clan" figure, which is always at the top of the pole. When an Indian traveled from one village to another, the totem carving told him where he would be most welcome. For example, a member of the Eagle clan looked for an eagle on top of a pole. If no eagle were found, he looked for the symbol of his mother's clan, which was always at the bottom. All totem figures were not always arranged this way, however.

There were specialists for totem pole carvings; an eagle carver, a raven carver, or fish specialist, and each took his turn carving his particular part of the story. They were hired to tell the story, and the figures were drawn as they were to be represented.

After the artist or artists had been chosen to carve a pole, a search was begun for the right tree. A large cedar, growing close enough to be transported home was sought. After cutting down the tree, the branches were removed and one side was scooped out, as if making a canoe. This made the tree lighter and easier to get back to the village. Many tree

poles were as high as eighty feet.

After the pole had been carved, the stories were told at a big party called a potlatch. The host provided vast quantities of food; the guests usually had to make long journeys to reach the party. Naturally, they wanted to visit a while, so the potlatch might last a week or even a month. Everyone was given gifts by the host, and it was a very lavish affair. The Indians danced, sang, and engaged in contests of strength.

Strange as it may seem, one of the last big totems to be erected by the old-time Indians had Abraham Lincoln carved at the top and a raven with outstretched arms at the bottom. The photograph which the Indians used to copy the likeness of Lincoln pictured him from the knees up. The Indians assumed his legs were very short, and that is how they carved the figure. This statue, which has been repaired, is now in the Alaska Historical Library and Museum in Juneau. Do you wonder why Indians in Alaska would want to put Abraham Lincoln on a totem pole? It would be interesting for you to find out.

History and geography are fascinating because we are interested in the past; our future is built on facts someone has discovered and handed down to us by many means: a totem pole, picture drawings, the written word, or even by the preservation of the human body. Did you know there is a body at the Louisiana Arts and Science Center that dates back 300 years before Christ was born? This is the mummy and even this ancient mummified body has a tie with us and our present-day life. It is hard to believe, but the stars she watched are the same ones we see night after night. Come to the Louisiana Arts and Science Center and view these links with yesterday.

Field Trips

Field trips provide excellent opportunities for learning experiences for children. A trip to the Louisiana Arts and Science Center in connection with this unit of study would afford the following values:

1. Promote understanding of the Alaskan culture.
2. Present an opportunity to get accurate information through first-hand contact and observation of authentic artifacts.
3. Provide an area in which comparisons and contrasts may be observed between life and environment of today and ancient cultures.

Outline

I. Alaska
- A. Purchase
- B. Size
  - 1. Capital
  - 2. Largest City
- C. The Land Regions
  - 1. Pacific Coast Range
  - 2. Alaska Basin
  - 3. Alaska Range
  - 4. Central Uplands and Plains
  - 5. Brooks Range
  - 6. Arctic Plains
  - 7. Aleutian Islands and Range
- D. Other Islands
  - 1. Prince of Wales
  - 2. Kodiak Island
  - 3. Pribilof Island
- E. Mountains and Volcanoes
- F. Glaciers
- G. Rivers
  - 1. Yukon
  - 2. Kuskokwim
- H. Natural Resources
  - 1. Soil
  - 2. Minerals
  - 3. Timber
  - 4. Plant Life
  - 5. Animal Life
- I. Climate
  - 1. Pacific Zone
  - 2. Continental
  - 3. Arctic

II. People
- A. Four native groups
  - 1. Aleut
  - 2. Tlingit Indians
  - 3. Other Indians
  - 4. Eskimos
- B. Products and Resources
  - 1. Fishing
  - 2. Mining
  - 3. Furs
  - 4. Agriculture
  - 5. Timber
  - 6. Electric Power
- C. Transportation
  - 1. Aviation
  - 2. Railroads

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D. Communication
1. Alaska Communications Cable
2. White Alice Project
3. Publications
4. Radio and Television
E. Education
1. Public Schools
2. Schools in incorporated towns and villages
3. Bureau of Indian Affairs
4. Universities
F. Government
1. Governor and Secretary of State
2. Legislature
3. Courts
4. Local Government
5. Taxes
6. Military

III. Vocabulary

IV. Correlation
A. Activities
B. Language

V. Suggestions for further study
A. Other references

I. Alaska

A. Purchase.

Alaska is the largest state in the United States, and in 1959 was the forty-ninth addition to our Union. Secretary of State William H. Seward bought Alaska from Russia in 1867 for $7,200,000, or about two cents per acre. At that time, it was thought to be a worthless land of ice and snow, but its vast supply of important minerals, forests, and potential water power has paid back its cost hundreds of times. Its name means great land or main land.

B. Size.

At its western-most point, the Alaska mainland lies only fifty-four miles from Russia. The whole state is one-fifth the size of our nation, or twice the size of Texas. Its capital is Juneau; its largest city is Anchorage. It is sometimes called "The Last Frontier" because huge regions have not been fully explored. The Federal government owns about nine-tenths of the land in Alaska.

1. Capital.

Juneau, the state capital, nestles at the base of Mount Juneau in the panhandle of southeastern Alaska. Juneau is one of Alaska's most important ports. The city's chief industries center around fishing and the outfitting of boats. Juneau's many cold-storage facilities handle Alaska's fish production. Surrounding timberlands provide a supply of spruce and hemlock for the city's sawmill.

In Juneau are the headquarters for many of the Federal activities and most of the state's offices. It is a tourist attraction because of its pictur-

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In Juneau are the headquarters for many of the Federal activities and most of the state's offices. It is a tourist attraction because of its picturesque location and lovely scenery.

Founded during the gold rush of 1880, the city got its name from a prospector, Joe Juneau, who discovered gold in this area. For many years, gold mining was its chief activity.

2. Largest city.

   Anchorage, the largest city, is a northern defense center of the United States. Nearby are Army installations, Fort Richardson, and Elmendorf Air Force Base.

   It ranks high in air traffic; it serves internation flights and as a trade and service center for two-thirds of Alaska.

   Anchorage was founded in 1914 as a railroad headquarters. Supply ships bringing material for the railroad anchored near the construction camp, and that is how the city got its name. The city grew from the construction camp.

C. The Land Regions. Alaska has seven main land regions.

1. The Pacific Coast Ranges region lies nearest the rest of the United States. It includes a 400-mile long strip of coast called the Panhandle. Thick vegetation here includes evergreen trees and hundreds of kinds of grasses and wild flowers. The islands of the Alexander Archipelago are also in this region.

2. The Alaska Basin region is north and west of the Pacific Coast Range. Most of the population is in this area, which includes Anchorage. The Basin consists of the western part of the Kenai Peninsula, the low-lying areas between the mountains of the Alaska Range to the north and west, and the mountains of Chugach and Wrangell ranges to the south and east.

3. The Alaska Range region extends in an irregular band from the state's eastern border west and south to the Aleutian Range. The mountains of the Alaska Range rise south of the Yukon River and connect with the Saint Elias Range.

4. The Central Uplands and Plains make up the largest region. This vast expanse of land lies north and west of the Alaska Range Region. It stretches westward to the Pacific Ocean, includes the Seward Peninsula, and extends northward to the Brooks Range Region. Much of this is rolling plains, cut into many small mesas by broad valleys and numerous streams. The mighty Yukon flows through the Central section.

5. The Brooks Range rises north of the Central Uplands and Plains. These peaks gradually slope to a low coastal region that borders the Arctic Ocean. The range includes the Baird, Endicott, and DeLong mountains.

6. The Arctic Plains make up Alaska's northernmost land region and is its only true polar area. Snow covers this region eight or nine months a year. The ground never thaws more than two feet below the surface and no trees can grow. During the summer when the sun never sets, the ground is thickly carpeted with low grasses and flowers.

7. The Aleutian Islands and Range Region include an area on the mainland northwest of Kodiak Island, the narrow Alaska Peninsula, and the long Aleutian Islands chain. Glacier-covered peaks and active volcanoes of the Aleutian Range form a magnificent background for a hundred miles of beautiful ocean bays in the Cook Inlet area. The Aleutian Islands, made up of fourteen large and fifty-five small islands, separate the Bering Sea from the Pacific Ocean for 1,100 miles along the Alaska Peninsula.

D. Other islands. The Alexander Archipelago includes the following:

1. Prince of Wales Island, the largest of the group, is the home of most of the Haida Indians. The Haida Indians are totem pole carvers.

2. Kodiak Island has an important fish-canning industry.

3. The Pribilof Islands are the summer home of the world's largest fur-seal herd.

Note: These are but a few of the islands. There are many more.

E. Mountains and Volcanoes.

There are four mountain ranges in Alaska. Of the mountains belonging to the United States, these are second in size only to Mount McKinley. The Aleutian Range includes Mount Katmai, the tallest of the Alaskan volcanoes. This volcano has one of the largest craters in the world.

F. Glaciers.

There are thousands of glaciers in the upper valleys and canyons of the mountains. The largest one extends fifty miles.

G. There are two main rivers in Alaska.

1. The Yukon, the fourth longest river in North America, is the most important waterway in the state. The Yukon River rises in Canada, but two-thirds of its course is in Alaska. It empties into the Bering Sea. Almost all of its 1,979 miles is navigable. River transportation has been replaced to a great degree by the airplane, but at one time the Yukon was the principal route. It may be frozen for as long as seven months during the year. Many of its small tributaries contain gold-bearing gravel. The eastern part has several hot springs.

2. The Kuskokwim River is fed by many small streams and finally empties into the Bering Sea. It rises in four branches on the west slope of the Alaska Range.

H. Natural Resources.

The natural resources are vast and rich; however, because of Alaska's lack of transportation and small population, much of her wealth is untouched. It is exciting in the twentieth century to have a frontier still to be developed.

1. Soil. The soils have developed from silty, very fine, sandy materials laid over glacial drift. Much of the state has a soil that, except on top, remains permanently frozen. The frozen soil is

7. The Aleutian Islands and Range Region include an area on the mainland northwest of Kodiak Island, the narrow Alaska Peninsula, and the long Aleutian Islands chain. Glacier-covered peaks and active volcanoes of the Aleutian Range form a magnificent background for a hundred miles of beautiful ocean bays in the Cook Inlet area. The Aleutian Islands, made up of fourteen large and fifty-five small islands, separate the Bering Sea from the Pacific Ocean for 1,100 miles along the Alaska Peninsula.

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1. Soil. The soils have developed from silty, very fine, sandy materials laid over glacial drift. Much of the state has a soil that, except on top, remains permanently frozen. The frozen soil is called perma-frost.

2. Minerals. For many years, gold accounted for the largest share of Alaska's mineral production. Other minerals include bituminous and sub-bituminous coal, one of North America's largest known deposits of magnetite iron, tin, platinum, metallurgical chrome ore, tungsten, asbestos, nickel, marble, petroleum, natural gas, copper, jade, lead, mercury, and silver.

3. Timber. Timber comes from two great forests; about three-fourths of it is hemlock. There is also spruce, birch, Alaska cedar, and western red cedar.

4. Plant Life. Trees grow throughout Alaska, except in the Arctic Circle, part of the Central Upland and Plains region, and on the Aleutian Islands. Grasses abound; there are more than 700 kinds of wild flowers, which grow in all parts of the state.

5. Animal Life. The world's richest salmon and halibut areas are found in Alaska. It also has great quantities of clams, cod, crabs, herring, and shrimp. Here are found the famous fur seals and huge Kodiak brown bears, many weighing 1,500 pounds and standing more than ten feet tall. There are polar bears, black bears, Arctic hares, beavers, foxes, lynxes, lemmings, martens, minks, muskrats, otters, weasles, and wolverines. Numerous big game animals include deer, moose, caribou, mountain sheep, mountain goats. Reindeer, musk oxen and bison thrive. Birds include bald and golden eagles, hawks, owls, auklets, cormorants, gulls, kittiwakes, murres, puffins, grouse, and ptarmigan. Millions of waterfowl migrate from these Alaskan nesting areas to the south lands.

I. Climate. Alaska has three distinct climate zones.

1. The Pacific Zone on the southern and southeastern coasts has average summer temperatures of 45° to 57° and average winter temperatures of 20° to 35°. Rainfall and snowfall range from sixty to 150 inches per year.

2. The Continental climate of the interior is colder. Average temperatures are from 45° to 58° in the summer, and from -2° to -10° in winter. Between seven and thirty-two inches of rain and snow falls annually.

3. The Arctic climate of the Arctic Plains region is only slightly colder than the continental climate of the interior. Average summer temperatures vary between -3° and 38° and between -16° and -3° in winter. The total amount of rainfall and snowfall is often less than four inches a year.

II. People

Alaska's population is 230,000. About sixty-two of every one hundred people live in rural areas. The Russians were the first white settlers in Alaska. Many persons from the northwestern states have also moved to Alaska. There are also Eskimos and Indians, who were the original inhabitants.

Most of the population work as mechanics, miners, in fisheries or on construction projects. There are about 45,000 American military personnel in Alaska. There is little farming because it takes too much money and time

for the farmer to get his farm on a paying basis. Markets are too far away and shipping costs are high.

A. There are four native groups.

1. The Aleut are related to the Eskimo, but distinct from them. They occupied parts of the Alaskan peninsula and the island chain named for them, the Aleutian Islands. When the Russian traders and trappers came to this area, they were cruel in their treatment of those people. They were practically enslaved and this harsh treatment almost extinguished the Aleut as a race.

   Their instruments for sewing and their utensils were made with amazing beauty and exact symmetry. Their basket making is superior, and the only instruments used were the fingers of the weaver.

2. The Tlingit Indians [pronounced Klink-it], the name means "the people," live in southeast Alaska. These were mother-centered people. Possession and property was passed down through the mother's descent. With this system nephews or younger brothers were heirs, rather than sons. In this way a clan retained their own property.

   Permanent winter homes were community houses, occupied by fifty to one hundred people. Villages consisted of eight to fifteen houses. Totems were carved into the supports of the house, or painted on one wall inside.

   Their proudest possessions were beautiful blankets woven from the wool of wild goats, and these were used almost like money. Wealth, rank, and prestige were important to the Tlingit. They won respect by their ability to give away or destroy large quantities of property.

   Their main livelihood came from the sea. They were skillful boatmen. These Indian craftsmen also carved wood, wove baskets, and fashioned beautiful wooden boxes and ceremonial masks.

3. Other Indian Tribes were known for their intricate beadwork on moosehide. These were migratory tribes, so they had few material possessions.

   They were distinguished for their sea-going dugout canoes and their war-like ability. Some tribes were noted for their fine carvings, rattles, bent-wood boxes, and mountain sheep and goat-horn spoons.

4. The Eskimos have been called "the most versatile people of North America." The word igloo means building, not ice house. The permanent winter home was a dugout house much like the sod houses of the great plains. If a snow igloo were built it was temporary shelter when the Eskimo could not return to his regular home for a night or two.

   There were no "tribes" or "chiefs"; all were equals. All who were able, did as much work as possible, since there was always a life and death struggle for food and clothing. When game was killed it belonged to the community.

   The Eskimos have no written language. Only a few white people have ever learned to speak the Eskimo language.

Though the Indians are considered to be distantly related to the Eskimos, there was great fear of each other.

Eskimo artists and craftsmen have left evidence of their skills from ancient times. They are renown for their creativity. Their skill in carving ivory ornaments and statuary from the tusks of walrus is remarkable. Walrus skins are used for their native boats.

These hardy, cheerful people do indeed rub noses; this is an affectionate gesture generally used between young children and the older women.

B. Products and Resources.

1. Fishing. Some of the world's largest salmon packing and processing plants are in Alaska. Next in importance are herring, halibut, and sablefish. Famous King Crabs, shrimp and razor clams are also exported in large quantities.

2. Mining. Gold ranked as the most important mineral product until 1961 when oil surpassed it. Natural gas leases are extensive. Small quantities of chromite, mercury, platinum, copper antimony, tungsten, asbestos, iron nickel, and marble are also mined.

3. Furs. The value of furs sold each year is about $7,000,000; seal skins account for eighty per cent. The beautiful Pribilof seals may be killed only by Federal employees under government supervision. Minks are second in value. Other furs include martens, beavers, otters, weasles, muskrats, foxes, and lynxes.

4. Agriculture. Dairying is one of the state's most valuable agricultural activities. Beef, hogs, and sheep are raised, but the demand for fresh meat exceeds the supply. Farmers raise wheat, oats, rye, barley, and hay. Vegetable crops include carrots, cabbages, turnips, potatoes, lettuce, peas, beets, cauliflower, and rhubarb. Crops of strawberries, raspberries, and currants are also grown.

5. Timber. About 360,000,000 board feet of timber are cut in the state each year. Sawmills operate throughout the state. As a source of revenue, it is barely tapped.

6. Electric Power. Electric power is by hydroelectric development. This, like the state's mineral and timber resources, has yet to be fully developed. Coal and other fuels furnish much of Alaska's power.

C. Transportation. Due to the expensive and slowly developing transportation systems, Alaska is still unexplored. There are, however:

1. Aviation. Provides the fastest and cheapest way to cross this rugged country. Ten airlines serve Alaska. There are more than 400 airports, seaplane bases and emergency landing strips. Almost every town and village has a landing strip.

2. Railroads. There are only about 550 miles of railroad tracks. The Alaska Railroad is owned and operated by the Federal government.

3. Roads and Highways. Alaska has about 4,000 miles of roads. The Alaska Highway, built as a military supply road during World War II, links Fairbanks and the rest of the state's roadways with Canada and points south.

4. Shipping. Ocean-steamer service provides most of the trade with the Pacific Coast states. Ice never blocks the southern ports.

D. Communications.

1. The Alaska Communications Cable was completed in 1950, and cost $20,000,000. It runs between Seattle, Washington, and Alaska. It carries thirty-six telephone conversations at a time, and also handles telegraph messages.

2. The White Alice Project, developed in 1950, is used by combat centers of the Alaska Air Command to receive reports of aircraft detected by radar outposts of the Distant Early Warning, DEW, line north of the Arctic Circle and elsewhere in Alaska and Canada. This line can transmit many messages and conversations at the same time.

3. Newspapers. Alaska's first newspaper was the Esquimanx, which was published for the first time in 1866, for the members of the Western Union Telegraph Expedition. About twenty newspapers and several magazines are now published in Alaska.

4. Radio and Television. Radio and television are affiliated with national networks. The first radio broadcast was in 1924 and the first television arrived in 1953.

E. Education.

1. Public Schools. Public schools are controlled by the state board of education. Children must attend school between the ages of seven and sixteen, or until they complete the eighth grade. There are three types of public schools.

2. Schools in incorporated towns and villages.

a. Rural schools. The entire support of rural schools is by state appropriations.

b. Schools in incorporated towns and cities. Supported by state funds [75 to 80 per cent] and by school district taxes [20 to 25 per cent].

c. Schools on military installations supported entirely by military funds.

3. Bureau of Indian Affairs. The Bureau of Indian Affairs operates schools in many villages throughout the state mainly for Aleut, Eskimo, and Indian children.

Parochial schools are also found in Alaska.

4. Universities. The University of Alaska is the oldest; it is located near Fairbanks. There are also several community colleges, accredited by the state, and the newly-built Alaska Methodist University, 1960.

F. Government.

For many years the only law in Alaska was the mining law of the north.

In 1906, the government agreed to have one delegate sent to the House of Representatives in Washington, but he had no vote. Two years before Alaska became a state, a constitution was adopted. The new constitution provided the following:

1. Governor and Secretary of State. Voters elect the governor for a four-year term. He cannot serve more than two consecutive terms. There is no lieutenant governor.

   The Secretary of State is the only other elected official, and his term of office is the same as the governor's. He becomes acting governor whenever the governor is out of the state.

2. The Legislature consists of a Senate of twenty members and a House of Representatives with forty members. Senators are elected for a four-year term. Representatives serve two-year terms.

3. Courts. The state Supreme Court has final jurisdiction in all matters. There are three Supreme Court Justices. The Superior Court, which is a general trial court, has eight judges.

4. Local Government. Local government is administered by the organized boroughs and cities. The state legislature governs all land outside the organized boroughs. A council governs each city. There are council-manager governments and mayor-council governments.

5. Taxes. The state's main sources of revenue are taxes on alcoholic beverages, individual and corporation incomes, motor fuel, oil, and raw fish; business licenses and motor vehicle registration fees are other sources of revenue. There is no state sales tax, but most cities have a three per cent city sales tax.

6. Military. Alaska serves as a military base doing sentinel service. There are large United States Navy, Army, and Air Force installations at strategic points. The three services operate under a unified command. More than 2,200 Alaskans serve in their National Guard.

III. Vocabulary.

1. Asbestos. A mineral supposed to be inextinguishable when set on fire.

2. Auklet. A small black and white short-necked diving seabird that breeds in colder parts of the northern hemisphere.

3. Bituminous. Containing bitumen, a mineral pitch; bituminous coal is a soft coal.

4. Borough. An urban area; a small town.

5. Caribou. A large deer, related to reindeer.

6. Cormorant. A long bodied bird with a hook on the end

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6. Cormorant. A long bodied bird with a hook on the end of its beak; it catches fish by chasing them underwater.

7. Community houses. A home in which more than one family lived.

8. Craftsmen. Workmen who practice a trade or handicraft; any skilled worker.

9. Currants. A small seedless raisin.

10. Husky. A heavy-coated working dog of the arctic region.

11. Kittiwake. Any of the various gulls having the hind toe short or unformed.

12. Klondike. A region of the Yukon; the great gold rush was in this area. The Klondike River is one of the tributaries of the Yukon River.

13. Kayak. A decked-in Eskimo skin canoe propelled by a double-bladed paddle.

14. Lemmings. Any of several small short-tailed, furry-footed rodents.

15. Livelihood. A method of making one's living; occupation.

16. Lynx. Various types of wildcats with relatively long legs, a short stubby tail, mottled coat, and often tufted ears.

17. Malamute (Malemute). A sled dog of northern North America; an Alaskan malamute.

18. Mesa. A broad terrace with an abrupt slope on one side.

19. Migratory. Moving from one country, place, or locality to another.

20. Murre. A narrow-billed auk.

21. Nullutuck. A type of Alaskan recreation sometimes called the "blanket toss" (the four corners of a blanket are held by men who toss a fifth person in the air; different teams try to out do the others).

22. Permafrost. A permanently frozen layer at different depths below the earth's surface in frigid regions.

23. Potential. Something that can develop or become actual.

24. Potlatch. A ceremonial feast of the Indians of the northwest coast, marked by the host's lavish distribution of gifts requiring reciprocation.

25. Soapstone. A soft stone having a soapy feel and often used for carving or sculpture.

26. Sourdough. A type of prospector's bread, requiring yeast or some type of fermenting action.

27. Vast. Very great in size.

28. Versatile. Turning or changing easily.

IV. Correlation.

A. Activities.

1. Draw a scene of life inside a community house, a seal hunt, an Alaska landscape, or the aurora borealis.

2. Using construction paper or a roller from inside a paper towel roll, make a totem pole or an Eskimo face mask.

3. Make a sod house, using a box covered with sod or an igloo, using salt or sugar for snow and ice.

4. Create a filmstrip using classroom-drawn and colored pictures of life in Alaska.

5. Demonstrate, using a doll, a nullutuck (blanket toss game played by the Eskimos).

6. Draw a map, coloring the land regions different colors.

7. Make Alaska's flag.

8. Make a kayak out of construction paper.

B. Language.

1. Make a list of things the class would like to know about Alaska. Make special reports on these subjects, being sure to include the Gold Rush, the huskies, the famous Alaskan King Crab, the malamute, the totem pole, and the state flag.

2. Write and give a play about a potlatch.

3. Plan a tour of Alaska.

4. Make a news story about the most recent earthquake or William Seward's purchase of Alaska.

5. Find out how an Eskimo soapstone carving is made.

6. List some of the foods the Eskimos or Indians would probably eat.

7. Why is Alaska called "the Last Frontier"?

8. What is a mountain marathon?

9. Why were early camps left with wood cut for a fire and food standing on the shelves?

V. Suggestions for Further Study.

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Chief Source of Information

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Films and Filmstrips

1. Southern Regional Depository

341, 396, 1290, 195. Alaska
858. Alaska, a Modern Frontier
337. Alaska's Silver Millions
2246. Earthquakes
45, 360. Eskimo

1429. Eskimos
2793. Life in the Cold Lands
D3. Last Frontier
A1. Eskimo Children

2. East Baton Rouge Parish Materials Bureau

a. Films

442 Animals of Alaska
120 Eskimo Children
177 Eskimos (Winter)
296 Letter from Alaska
639 Eskimo River Village
258 Eskimo Sea Hunters
442 Animals of Alaska

b. Filmstrips

49 Eskimo Life at Bering Strait
2399 Eskimo Sea Hunters
50 Hunting with Polar Eskimos
1113 Life of the Eskimos